

Six Area Students Heading to Miss Oklahoma Competition

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Maybree Rittenhouse
Miss SWOSU

Natalie Yadon
Miss SWOSU's Outstanding Teen

Hailey Raetz
Miss Collinsville

Andrea Cook
Miss Bricktown's Outstanding Teen

Jahven Tanner
Miss Delaware County's Outstanding Teen

Ashlin Murray
Miss Route 66's Outstanding Teen

Weatherford area students will be represented at the Miss Oklahoma Pageant set for June 4-11 in the Tulsa Mabee Center.

Miss and Teen Pageant preliminary competitions will be Tuesday-Friday with the Teen Oklahoma Pageant finals on Friday, June 10, and the Miss Oklahoma Pageant finals on Saturday, June 11.

Two Southwestern Oklahoma State University coeds at Weatherford will compete during the Miss Oklahoma Pageant. A total of 49 young ladies from across the state will compete for the Miss Oklahoma crown this year. SWOSU will be represented by Miss Southwestern Maybree Rittenhouse of Lawton (MacArthur) and Miss Collinsville Hailey Raetz of Hydro.

Four area Weatherford students will also be among 39 competing for the Miss Oklahoma's Outstanding Teen title. Representing SWOSU's Outstanding Teen will be Natalie Yadon of Woodward. Other Weatherford teens in the pageant are: Andrea Cook, Teen Bricktown; Jahven Tanner, Teen Delaware County; and Ashlin Murray, Teen Route 66.

The week of Miss Oklahoma preliminaries will be held Tuesday-Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Rittenhouse will compete in the Mu Group. She will start the week on Tuesday with lifestyle of fitness in swimsuit; Wednesday will be her lyrical dance to "How You Live"; and Thursday will be on-stage question and evening wear. Her interview will take place on Monday morning.

Raetz will be in the Omega Group. On Tuesday, she will present her vocal talent to “Climb Every Mountain”; Wednesday will be on-stage question and evening wear; and Thursday will be lifestyle of fitness in swimsuit. Her interview will be on Monday afternoon.

The finals will be Saturday night (June 11) at 7:30 p.m. The winner of the pageant advances to the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City.

The preliminaries for the Miss Teen Pageant will be 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, and 10 a.m. on Friday, June 10. Yadon will compete in the Alpha group. Her interview is on Wednesday. She will compete in active wear, on-stage question and evening wear on Thursday and her talent on Friday by twirling batons to “Big Noise.”

Tanner will be in the Alpha group as well, and her vocal talent will be singing “Part of Your World”. Cook and Murray will be in the Omega group. Their interviews will be on Wednesday. During the preliminaries they will compete in talent on Thursday. Cook will tap dance to “Beat It” and Murray will sing “Glitter and Be Gay.” Their Friday prelims will include active wear, on-stage question and evening wear.

The teen pageant finals will be held on Friday night (June 10) at 7:30 p.m.

The contestants will be busy all week with additional activities during the week including: Miss Oklahoma Red Carpet Premiere event, featuring all of the contestants; Children’s Miracle Network “Bounce U” fundraiser; Chapel Service; Welcome Brunch; Awards Celebration; and orientations and rehearsals.

The Miss Oklahoma Pageant is proud to offer over \$2 million in scholarships to contestants each year statewide. These scholarships are given through the local pageants and the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Foundation.

Nearly 10,000 women have participated in the Miss Oklahoma program in state and local competitions since The Kiwanis Club of Tulsa started sponsoring the pageant in 1972. The Miss Oklahoma Pageant is part of the Miss America Organization that is the nation’s leading advocate for women’s education and one of the largest providers of scholarship assistance to young women in the United States, awarding millions of dollars annually in cash awards and in-kind tuition waivers. MAO is comprised of 52 licensed organizations, including all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Miss America contestants contribute tens of thousands of community service hours annually and have raised over \$13 million for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and Miss America scholarships since 2007.

Debbie Brown, director of the Miss SWOSU Pageant, said Miss America is more than a title, saying it’s a movement of empowering young women everywhere to achieve their dreams by providing quality scholarship assistance and honoring their commitment to helping others.